

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 3002

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Ways & Means, March 7, 2018

Title: An act relating to making expenditures from the budget stabilization account for declared catastrophic events.

Brief Description: Making expenditures from the budget stabilization account for declared catastrophic events.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representative Ormsby).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/06/18, 51-47.

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 3/07/18 [DP, DNP, w/oRec].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes appropriations from the Budget Stabilization Account for fire mobilization and suppression.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Rolfes, Chair; Frockt, Vice Chair; Billig, Carlyle, Conway, Darneille, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, Mullet, Palumbo, Pedersen, Ranker and Van De Wege.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Honeyford, Assistant Ranking Member; Bailey.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Braun, Ranking Member; Becker, Brown, Fain, Schoesler, Wagoner and Warnick.

Staff: Julie Murray (786-7711)

Background: In 2007, the voters ratified a constitutional amendment that created the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA) as Article VII, section 12 of the Washington Constitution. In

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general, appropriations from the BSA require a three-fifths majority in each house of the Legislature, but in the case of a catastrophic event or low employment growth, the Legislature may appropriate from the BSA with a constitutional majority vote of each house.

On September 2, 2017, the Governor declared a state of emergency for all of Washington because of the high risk of wildfires throughout the state.

Summary of Bill: The gubernatorial declaration of emergency due to wildfires is cited.

For fiscal year 2018, \$2.655 million is appropriated to the Washington State Patrol for fire mobilization costs and \$19.808 million is appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for fire suppression costs incurred during the 2017 fire season.

The BSA appropriations do not alter the requirement to balance the budget in the ensuing biennium under the state's four-year balanced budget requirement, also known as the State Budget Outlook.

Appropriation: Two appropriations, totaling \$22.463 million, are made to the Washington State Patrol and Department of Natural Resources.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: No public hearing was held.

Persons Testifying: N/A

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: N/A